

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

ACDA-05 AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /056 W

----- 085012

R 101436Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4870

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CDR MICOM REDSTONE ARSENAL//AL//DRCPM//KMS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE - KUWAIT

1. ON MARCH 9 CHARGE AND DOD REP CALLED ON KUWAITI MINDEF SHAIKH SA'AD TO DISCUSS VARIOUS FMS PROGRAMS. MEETING WAS CORDIAL BUT INCONCLUSIVE. MINISTER OBVIOUSLY NOT UP TO DATE ON STATUS MANY PROGRAMS. MOST OF CONVERSATION EVOLVED AROUND HIS LAMENTS CONCERNING HIGHER THAN EXPECTED COSTS FOR IHAWK AND A-4 PROGRAMS. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SORROW REGARDING SITUATION, ADMITTING SOME POSSIBLE GOK FAULT BUT CLEARLY LAYING MAJOR BLAME ON USG FOR COST INCREASES.

2. EFFORTS TO ELICIT DEFINITIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING TIMING OF GOK SIGNATURE OF OUTSTANDING FMS CASES GENERALLY UNSUCCESSFUL. MINISTER ADMITTED HE HAD SOME REMAINING FUNDS AND SAID HE HAD, IN FACT, SIGNED "THREE OR FOUR SMALL CASES" (UNIDENTIFIED) DURING COURSE MORNING. (WE PROBABLY WILL RECEIVE THESE IN A FEW DAYS.) HOWEVER, SA'AD SAID HE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO SIGN MAJOR CASES AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN MORE MONEY. HE REVEALED THAT HIS SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS HAD BEEN APPROVED BY SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL AND SAID THAT THEY WERE UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WHEN ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO
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TAKE ACTION HE SAID ONE OR TWO MONTHS WAS A REASONABLE TIME.

HE ASSURED US APPROVAL WAS CERTAIN.

3. MINISTER AGAIN APPRISED OF NEED FOR ADEQUATE STAFFING FOR USLOK, CHARGE PROMISED TO FORWARD LETTERS OF OFFER (RECEIVED BY EMBASSY MARCH 10) ASAP FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. MINISTER MADE NO COMMENT. HE ALSO WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY IS PREPARING LETTER TO MAJOR GENERAL MUBARAK IN RESPONSE TO LIST OF PROBLEMS PRESENTED TO GENERAL HUYSER CONCERNING USG PERFORMANCE UNDER FMS.

4. VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO GOK IN PROVIDING HOUSING FOR RAYTHEON PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH IHAWK PROGRAM WERE DISCUSSED. (AT GOK REQUEST DOD IHAWK TEAM AGREED TO DELETE HOUSING COSTS FROM CASE UCY DURING MEETINGS LATE JANUARY.) NEED FOR A TIMELY DECISION WAS EMPHASIZED. SHAIKH SA'AD PROMISED TO "GET TO IT THIS WEEK."
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